

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 16th, 2021**

PRESENT: David Minicozzi (*Dave*), David Colley, Bonnie McKirdy, Don Gentile, Pat Sanders,
Amy Graver, Susan Rood

GUEST: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:29
2. **Parliamentary/Technical:**
 - a. **Minutes-** **Dave** made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of July 2020 and October 2020 and of the special meeting of September 2020. **Don** seconded the motion and, after due discussion, all minutes were unanimously approved as a whole.
 - b. **Meeting dates-** a list of Committee meeting dates was circulated. Members are encouraged to calendar them immediately as there are only five (5) more meetings for 2021 and so each becomes that much more important.
 - c. **Contacts list-** an updated list of Committee members and important contacts was circulated. Members are encouraged to inform the Chairman of any changes to their information.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
 - a. **Correspondence-** **Dave** reminded everyone of his February 14, 2021 email which referenced materials sent to the Committee and the Town in advance of this meeting.
 - b. **Special Project Status-** further discussion warranted regarding status of projects and priorities for same.
 - c. **Planting Plan 2021-** a general discussion of where and when to plant in 2021.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Green use applications-** six (6) were submitted: **i.** Park 'n' Rec is having a "*Do you want to build a snowman*" event throughout February; **ii.** the Branford Community Garden is having a *plant and produce sale* May 15th (rain date May 16th) and August 21st (rain date August 22nd); **iii.** Wreaths Across America is having a *mini golfevent* September 18th; **iv.** the Branford Arts & Cultural Alliance is having an *art display and market* September 25th; **v.** the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library are having a *book sale fundraiser* September 30th-October 3rd. They require the prior weekend to set up their tent; and **vi.** the Branford Compassion Club is having there *Animal Awareness Day* event October 3rd and will sharing space with the book sale event.
 - b. **Reports-** **Pat** reported that the GIS map of the Green has been brought up to date through September 2020; **Bonnie** reported the Garden Club will hold a community garden sale on May 15th and BACA will have an art show on the Green in June (see above Green Use Applications); **Don** reported that **Colin Sheehan** was instrumental in having the tree adjacent to the Academy strung with lights during the Holidays.

- c. **Priorities and summer projects-** in spite of Covid-19 restrictions the Committee should continue its work regarding various priorities and projects: updating its planting plan; developing an exhibit to showcase tree and shrub donations; invite representatives of the *Notable Trees Program* to review our inventory for likely candidates; develop a policy regarding signs and other displays; establish a public archive of Green Committee and other historical records; institute a periodic series on green-related topics in the local press; others prn.
5. **Guest, First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove-** a number of topics were discussed: **i.** the Design Team for the *Main Street improvement project* had a kickoff meeting to discuss details such as vehicular and pedestrian improvements, and green space will be maximized with no encroachment of or taking away of same; **ii.** the *DOT Route 146 improvement project* (South Central Regional Council of Governments/"*SCROG*") is up in the air; **iii.** the *bistro tables* are a hit and will remain; **iv.** *general improvements to the Green* have been/will be re-seeding, regrading of trenches and filling in of low spots, the mailbox across from Town Hall will be relocated, the "Big Mouth" garbage container has been removed and the BACA oil drum/garbage cans will be removed, Wifi has been installed, the banner poles will be replaced by matching green decorative poles, Public Works will replace the bituminous sidewalk along Town Hall Drive with brick pavers and granite curbing, some benches will be removed/relocated; **v.** **Jamie** would like *new trees planted along Main and Montowese Streets* to get ahead of some the older trees. It was suggested some Committee members meet with him on the Green to consider type and placement.
6. **Other- i. Don and Amy** discussed the possibility of having the Committee become involved with the annual tree lighting, specifically via a *Hometown Hero* theme. **Jamie** suggested they schedule a Zoom meeting with **Dale Izzo** and **Alex Palluzzi** to discuss the matter further; **ii. Pat** suggested thought be given to replacement trees for the storm-damaged beech next to the Baptist Church and the diseased white pine behind Town Hall, and that we should also consider trees along Town Hall Drive per discussions held during last year's Annual Tree Walk.
7. **Adjourn-** upon motion by **Dave** and seconded by **Pat**, after due discussion the motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:22PM.

The next Green Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 at 5:30PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem